United Nations S/PRST/2003/8

Security Council

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19 June 2003

Original: English

Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 4776th meeting of the Security Council, held on 19 June 2003, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Guinea-Bissau", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council, recalling its previous statements on Guinea-Bissau, including the statement of its President of 29 November 2000 (S/PRST/2000/37), having considered the report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the activities of the United Nations Peace-Building Support Office in that country (S/2003/621), and anticipating the Council mission to Guinea-Bissau, expresses its concern with regard to the fragile political sit tion in Guinea-Bissau, to the persistent economic and social crisis and to continuing disturbing information regarding the human rights situation. It urges the country's leaders and the international community to work more purposefully together to ensure that the development, humanitarian and peace-building agendas are quickly put back on track.

"The Security Council appeals to the President and Government of Guinea-Bissau to timely and effectively organize the forthcoming legislative elections and to ensure that these elections are conducted in a transparent, fair and credible manner, in accordance with the Constitution and the electoral law. It is the Council's expectation that candidates as well as political parties will not be subjected to violence and intimidation, and that the presence of international observers at these elections will be acceptable to all parties. The Council also expresses the hope that following the successful conduct of the elections, the Government will embark on additional concrete measures to show further proof of its commitment to democracy and the rule of law by promulgating the new Constitution and by having the President and Vice-President of the Supreme Court duly elected without further delay.

"The Security Council calls on the Government of Guinea-Bissau to take the necessary steps to facilitate a constructive dialogue with the international community and the Bretton Woods institutions and to fully endorse the partnership approach defined by the ad hoc advisory group of the United Nations Economic and Social Council on Guinea-Bissau.

"The Security Council appeals to the donor community to contribute financially to the implementation of the political and economical process in Guinea-Bissau, including necessary support for the legislative elections.

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"The Security Council expresses its concern with regard to the situation of human rights and civil liberties, and urges the Government of Guinea-Bissau to take the necessary measures in order to improve this situation. It stresses the importance that freedom of speech and freedom of the press be fully respected.

"The Security Council acknowledges the importance of the regional dimension in the solution of the problems faced by Guinea-Bissau and, in that regard, calls on the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Organization of Portuguese Speaking African Countries (PALOPS) to further strengthen their involvement and expresses its intention to intensify its cooperation with these organizations.

"The Security Council welcomes the willingness of President Kumba Yala to host negotiations on the issue of Casamance and appeals to him to continue to cooperate constructively with the Government of Senegal in order to contribute to a solution of this issue.

"The Security Council recognizes and commends the important role played by the Representative of the Secretary-General as well as by the United Nations country team towards helping consolidate peace, democracy and the rule of law, and expresses its appreciation for their activities.

"The Security Council expresses its full support to the forthcoming mission to Guinea-Bissau, to be led by the Permanent Representative of Mexico, and which will be the first part of an overall mission to West Africa, and looks forward to its conclusions and recommendations.

"The Security Council expresses its intention to keep the situation in Guinea-Bissau under regular review."

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Security Council

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26 June 2003

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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 4779th meeting of the Security Council, held on 26 June 2003, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in the Middle East", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

> "In connection with the resolution just adopted on the renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, I have been authorized to make the following complementary statement on behalf of the Security Council:
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> > 'As is known, the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (S/2003/655) states in paragraph 12: " ... the situation in the Middle East is very tense and is likely to remain so, unless and until a comprehensive settlement covering all aspects of the Middle East problem can be reached". That statement of the Secretary-General reflects the view of the Security Council.'"

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Security Council

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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 4787th meeting of the Security Council, held on 17 July 2003, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation between Eritrea and Ethiopia", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council, recalling all its previous resolutions and statements of its President regarding the situation between Ethiopia and Eritrea, as well as the conclusions of the Security Council mission to Eritrea and Ethiopia in 2002, welcomes the Secretary-General's progress report of 23 June 2003 (S/2003/665).

"The Security Council reaffirms the commitment of all Member States to the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ethiopia and Eritrea, and its support for the 13 April 2002 delimitation decision of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission (EEBC).

"The Security Council welcomes the public commitment of both parties to a full and expeditious implementation of the Algiers Agreement of 12 December 2000, and reaffirms the Council's commitment to contribute to the completion of the peace process. The Council welcomes the parties' acceptance of the 13 April 2002 delimitation decision as final and binding.

"The Security Council welcomes that the situation in the Temporary Security Zone has remained calm and that the parties have cooperated well with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and with UNMEE. The Council reiterates its serious concern about outstanding issues referred to in the Secretary-General's report, in particular some restrictions on the freedom of movement of UNMEE that remain and the continuing absence of a direct high altitude flight route for UNMEE aircraft between Asmara and Addis Ababa, resulting in additional costs to the mission.

"The Security Council supports the Secretary-General's observation in his progress report (S/2003/665) that expeditious demarcation of the border is crucial, and expresses concern at the delays so far, particularly given UNMEE's operational cost at a time of growing demands on UN peacekeeping. Delays would be contrary to the wish of both parties to achieve lasting peace and stability as manifested in the Algiers Agreement.

"The Security Council urges the parties to provide their full and prompt cooperation to the Boundary Commission for the beginning of demarcation in

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Sector East and for the initiation of survey work in Sectors Centre and West. The Council calls upon the parties to pursue any matters that may arise in connection with the implementation of the Boundary Commission's delimitation decision within the provisions of the Algiers Agreement.

"The Security Council encourages the parties to continue their cooperation with the Military Coordination Commission in order to resolve military and security coordination issues arising from the Boundary Commission's activities. The Security Council welcomes assurances given by both parties regarding the provision of security for the Boundary Commission's staff and contractors operating in the Temporary Security Zone and adjacent areas during demarcation.

"The Security Council regrets the absence of political contacts between the parties. It believes that political dialogue between the two countries is crucial for the success of the peace process and the consolidation of progress made thus far. The Council calls on both parties to normalize their relationship through political dialogue, including confidence-building measures such as holding alternating meetings of the Military Coordination Commission in each other's capital.

"The Council underlines the United Nations readiness to facilitate political dialogue if requested and to offer strong support in addressing the humanitarian and development challenges that would result from the demarcation of the border.

"The Security Council encourages UNMEE to continue its local outreach activities in order to provide valuable information about the peace process and mine awareness programmes to the local population. The Council welcomes UNMEE's intention to continue quick-impact projects, which provide direct assistance to communities in the border regions, and welcomes the Secretary-General's recommendation contained in paragraph 22 of his report. The Council, expressing appreciation to those Member States that have already provided contributions to the Trust Fund for the Delimitation and Demarcation of the Border and to the Trust Fund to Support the Peace Process in Ethiopia and Eritrea, calls on Member States in a position to do so to urgently provide further support to these Trust Funds.

"The Security Council is concerned about the serious shortfall of resources received in response to the consolidated appeals to address the humanitarian consequences of the drought in Ethiopia and Eritrea and calls on Member States and the international community to contribute generously to these appeals."

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Security Council

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25 July 2003
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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 4793rd meeting of the Security Council, held on 25 July 2003, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Côte d'Ivoire", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council reiterates the need for Ivorian political forces to implement fully and without delay all the provisions of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement, as well as those of the agreement signed in Accra on 8 March 2003 ("Accra II"), with a view to open, free and transparent elections being held in 2005. The Council takes note with satisfaction of the formation of a government of national reconciliation and the progress made, particularly the identification of cantonment areas and the delegation of powers to the Prime Minister, and is looking forward to new progress in accordance with the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement. The Council also welcomes the "joint declaration by Côte d'Ivoire defense and security forces and the armed forces of the Forces Nouvelles" of 4 July 2003 (S/2003/704).

"The Security Council emphasizes, however, that much remains to be done to achieve the full implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement. In this regard, the Council endorses the recommendations of its mission to West Africa (S/2003/668). The Council calls on Ivorian political forces to redouble their efforts in the following areas: voting for the amnesty bill submitted to the National Assembly by the Government, the complete implementation of a "disarmament, demobilization and reintegration" programme, the extension of public services and the authority of the State to areas still under control of the Forces Nouvelles, the appointment of ministers for defence and interior security, the guarantee of equal security for all ministers, the dismantling of militias throughout the country and the termination of the activities of mercenaries and of the purchase of weapons.

"The Security Council renews its support and encouragement to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire. It asks him to keep the Council closely informed of developments towards the full implementation of the above objectives. It is pleased that the United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire (MINUCI) is now operational and hopes it will soon be fully staffed, including in such crucial areas as the political and human rights components.

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"The Security Council reiterates its full support for the efforts of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and France in contributing to a peaceful solution to the crisis. It welcomes in particular the satisfactory deployment of their peacekeeping forces in the western part of the country to support the implementation of the ceasefire reached on 3 May. The Council calls on Member States to continue to respond to the appeal made at the donors' conference in Paris on 18 July, attended by the Executive Secretary of ECOWAS and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, and to provide logistic and financial support to ECOMICI so that it can continue to fulfil its important mandate.

"The Security Council invites donor countries to contribute to the reconstruction of Côte d'Ivoire in compliance with the commitments undertaken at Kleber.

"The Security Council expresses its concern at the continued existence of regional factors of instability, particularly the use of mercenaries and child soldiers, and the spread of small arms and light weapons which prevent a lasting solution to the crisis in the region. The Council requests the Secretary-General to submit recommendations to the Council as soon as possible on ways to combat such subregional and cross-border problems, focusing in particular on better coordination of United Nations efforts.

"The Security Council is convinced that a lasting solution to the problems of the subregion also requires genuine cooperation among all States concerned, together with confidence-building measures and the personal commitment of heads of State in the subregion."

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Security Council

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25 July 2003

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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 4794th meeting of the Security Council, held on 25 July 2003, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "Security Council mission", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council welcomes the recommendations made in the reports of its mission to Central Africa from 7 to 16 June 2003 (S/2003/653) and its mission to West Africa from 26 June to 5 July 2003 (S/2003/688).

"The Security Council endorses the recommendations of these two missions which fall within its area of responsibility and wishes to see them implemented. It has already taken the relevant recommendations into account in preparing its resolution renewing and strengthening the mandate of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

"Where responsibility for implementation falls to others, the Council looks forward to working in partnership with them, including United Nations agencies and programmes; Governments in Central Africa and West Africa; regional and subregional organizations, notably the Economic Community of West African States; donor countries; non-governmental organizations; and civil society. The Council invites them to keep it informed about their efforts at implementation, so that the Council can support them and take any further action necessary.

"The Security Council emphasizes the importance of a subregional approach to issues such as small arms and light weapons, mercenaries, child soldiers and humanitarian access. It stresses that follow-up activity by the United Nations will require close cooperation and coordination throughout the United Nations system. Action in these areas should also involve the appropriate organizations, especially in West Africa.

"The Security Council invites the Secretary-General to follow up those recommendations which lie within his responsibility, and would be grateful for a report on progress by 30 November 2003.

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"The Security Council recognizes that resources may be needed to implement its recommendations. Therefore it will continue to encourage donor countries in a position to do so to support such efforts, and to assist regional and subregional organizations in this respect.

"The Security Council intends to review progress in implementing the recommendations in December 2003."